



# *Spirit of St. Paul*

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

**August 2023**

Fellow Ministers in Christ,

During the Summer months attendance is down, both online and in person, as people take time to recreate and rest. A few items to note: the card table in the entry way has been removed and the items are on the long shelf on the South wall. Any special notifications along with a sign in sheet for worship helpers and slips where you can list any prayer requests or removal of prayers in the bulletin. The Red Cross Blood Drive returns starting August 18, 2023, from 11:00 to 4:45. There are posters in the church as a reminder. The garden is now producing and we are receiving donations of food from other gardeners.

There is one activity that doesn't need presence at any time or place and can be an important part of our daily life -- prayer. Some say they do not know how to pray but prayer is simply talking to a friend, a friend who listens. Prayer is important to God's beloved.

We pray every Sunday in different points of the liturgy, we may pray every day or for special circumstances. Does it seem sometimes our prayers are not heard? In Paul's letter to the Romans he is writing to encourage the whole community, not the faith or belief of individuals but to God's beloved people collectively. He discusses we may not know how to pray. But the Spirit will intercede. We may not be able to see the suffering in the world and may feel helpless and at a loss for words, and even unsure about what or how to pray. But Paul tells us—God is listening so we continue to pray.

Paul tells us that despite our suffering in life, all things are good. He writes, "we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purposes." (Romans 8:28, NRSV) God is in control and presently is at work in the world transforming it for God's good purposes working to make things right. Even though our world seems unmanageable at times, God is faithfully at work in the world making it good. While modeling our lives after Christ, we continue to pray.

Our faith, a gift from the Spirit, is an active faith, not a passive belief. It is a life dedicated to active participation in making the world good so we continue to pray

As we pray, we live confidently knowing "neither life, nor death, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all

## **Guiding Principles**

We are a people who:

- ✿ Listen for God's Call
- ✿ Believe and Trust in God's Call
- ✿ Answer God's Call
- ✿ Support each other in times of joy and sorrow
- ✿ Live out our faith in prayer and service
- ✿ Share food with the hungry
- ✿ Believe the gospel is for all, not just Christians.

creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39,NRSV).

Even though this message is to the community the message is singular and intended for each of us —God is at work in the world and gives us a message of hope for all who God loves, encourages, supports, equips, and are empowered by God. As we are called to God’s purpose, nothing will separate us from God’s love nor Jesus Christ our Lord. So, we continue to pray.

Continued prayers for each and every one of you,

Pr. Carl

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## Social Outreach & Ministry

### Food Pantry Report for August 2023 Newsletter



*St. Paul Pantry*

A total of 178 clients were served in June 2023, which meant 55 families were helped. So far since January 1, 2023, we have served 826 clients which means 264 families have been helped. We could not have accomplished this without the support of our congregation and the dedicated volunteers who

work at the Food Pantry.

Between January 26,2023, and June 25, 2023, 4352.1 pounds of food was donated for the Food Pantry from members of the congregation, as well as outside donors from the community. June was truly a record month, as we received 1452.8 pounds of food in one month. We are very grateful for these donations.

During the upcoming Simply Giving campaign for St. Paul’s Food Pantry at Meijer’s on Lake Lansing Road, the Double Match Day opportunities will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023, and Saturday, September 9,2023. For every \$10 Simply Give card purchased on these dates, Meijer will provide an additional contribution of \$20.00, bringing the total to \$30.00 for a single customer purchase.

The Food Pantry Garden has produced zucchini, cucumbers and green peppers for our clients. We would like to thank all of those who have volunteered, including keeping it watered during these hot, dry days we have had. We have also received numerous squashes, cucumbers, basil and broccoli from a resident of East Lansing who has a garden in Bath. She has brought produce for us every week for the last 3 weeks. If you would be willing to help with the garden, please contact Chuck Nelson or Barb Paff.

Volunteers are always appreciated who are able to work on Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoon pantry distribution days. If you are available and would like to help, please contact Bev Johnson or Tracy Collins.



During August the Food Pantry continues to request donations of the following items, which are currently in short supply or unavailable from the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

TOMATO PASTE   TOMATO SAUCE   DICED TOMATOES  
RICE   KETCHUP   MUSTARD   SALT   SPAGHETTI SAUCE  
MACARONI SHELLS   LAUNDRY DETERGENT   HAND SOAP   DISH SOAP

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## Upcoming Events



Donate blood. Help save lives.  
We are having a blood drive on  
Friday, August 18, 2023, from  
11am – 4:45pm.

We are looking to start our choir back up beginning this fall! All who are interested in signing up or learning to sing should contact Elene or Kathy Griffin as soon as possible. Be on the lookout for more information.



Look for the volunteer sign up form in the narthex!

We are looking for...

- Reader
- Assistant Minister
- Communion Set up/Clean up
- Power Point Master
- Acolyte
- Greeter



Look for the sign up sheet after Sunday service.

### **Dates to Remember:**

- Every Wednesday – Adult Bible Study @ 7pm via Zoom
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Study @ 7pm
- August 18<sup>th</sup> – Blood Drive, 11am – 4:45pm
- August 20<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Study @ 7pm
- August 27<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation during service @ 10am
- September 10<sup>th</sup> – “God’s Work, Our Hands”
- September 17<sup>th</sup> – CPR/AED/First Aid Training

### **August Birthday Celebrations**

- 8/3 – James F.
- 8/6 – Tracy C.
- 8/6 – Gary K.
- 8/10 – Bev J.
- 8/17 – Dee H.
- 8/18 – Marge P.
- 8/22 – Teresa W.
- 8/25 – Kaitlyn H.



\*if you were accidentally omitted, please contact the church via voicemail or email.

## August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Food Pantry 5:30-7 Adult Bible Study 7pm	3	4	5
6 <b>Worship Confirmation 7pm</b>	7	8	9 Adult Bible Study 7pm	10 Food Pantry 1-4	11	12
13 <b>Worship</b>	14 Worship Committee meeting 6:30pm	15	16 Food Pantry 5:30-7 Adult Bible Study 7pm	17 Council meeting 7pm	18 Blood Drive 11-4:45	19
20 <b>Worship Confirmation 7pm</b>	21	22	23 Adult Bible Study 7pm	24	25	26
27 <b>Worship Confirmation 10am</b>	28 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	29	30 Adult Bible Study 7pm	31 Food Pantry 1-4		



### St. Paul Lutheran Church

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**Our Purpose: Feeding God's people both inside and  
outside while listening to what the people need.**